The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1592 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1941 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 31, NO. 41

AFL No-Strike Policy In Defense Plants Is Big Success, Green Says

99 Per Cent of Union Members Refrain From Walk-Outs, He Asserts; Holds CIO Guilty of Preventing Labor Unity

Seattle, Wash.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor answered President Roosevelt's urgent request for uninterrupted defense production with a nation-wide appeal to "every worker in every union" to stay on the job and keep the wheels of industry turning at full speed "until the enemies of America are soundly defeated."

Speaking over a coast-to-coast radio hookup of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Mr. Green took up the President's special message to the 61st annual convention of the American Federation of Labor point by point and replied fully and frankly. He said:

"In the course of his message to the convention, President Roosevelt made several suggestions designed to bring about even more efficient labor service in the future. We welcome these suggestions, first because we are just as deeply concerned as he is to promote all-out defense effort and, secondly, because his recommendations are fully in line with the well-established policies of the American Federation of Labor."

Answering the President's plea that labor submit disputes to the Defense Mediation Board before going on strike, Mr. Green said:

"This appeal by the President of the United States echoes almost word for word a public declaration issued by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor six months ago, shortly after the National Defense Mediation Board was created by Executive Order. The Executive Council pointed out that the original suggestion for the creation of this board had come from the American Federation of Labor. It called upon the affiliated national and international unions of the Federation to submit disputes to the Mediation Board and to refrain from strikes until every avenue of peaceful settlement was exhausted. Voluntarily and without official prodding, the Executive Council urged all affiliated unions in the strongest possible terms to avoid any stoppages of production that would retard national defense.

"What has been the response from the membership of the American Federation of Labor to this appeal from its leadership? I am gratified to report from official Government records that the response was almost 100 per cent perfect. These official records show that more than 99 per cent of the membership of the American Federation of Labor refrained from striking for any cause at any time during the defense program to date.

"Now it is not my purpose to denounce the fraction of one per cent of our members who have deviated from the no-strike policy of our organization. I can well understand how impatient men and women, smarting under a sense of injustice, may act hastily in an attempt to redress immediate and personal grievances, forgetting for the moment the broader issues involved and the ultimate effect of their ill-considered conduct. And I ask the public to bear in mind that labor organizations are made up of human beings, subject to human emotions and unable no matter how hard they try to attain perfection.

"But at the same time, in line with the wise policy of the American Federation of Labor and in accordance with the earnest request of President Roosevelt, I appeal to every man and woman of the American Federation of Labor to remember at all times and under all circumstances that the national interest comes first. I urge them not to gamble for pennies at the risk of losing everything we hold dear in America. I assure them that the Federal agencies set up by the President are ready and willing to give labor a square deal. Here and now in plain words I call upon every member and every union in the American Federation of Labor to stay on the job and keep defense production going at full blast until the enemies of America are soundly defeated.

"The next suggestion made by the President is that organizational and jurisdictional conflicts be discarded. He stated that establishment of peace and unity in the labor movement would be a patriotic step forward of incalculable value.

"Speaking for the American Federation of Labor, I can truthfully say that we agree with the President 100 per cent. The metal trades and building and construction trades unions of the American Federation of Labor have already signed compacts with the Government guaranteeing there will be no stoppages of defense work due to jurisdictional conflicts between two or more unions of the American Federation of Labor.

"But with regard to the larger question of labor peace, the obvious fact is that it takes two sides to make peace. The President himself declared at a press conference in Washington, D. C., more than a year ago that the American Federation of Labor had responded willingly and favorably to each appeal for both sides to sit down together and work out a settlement of differences around the conference table. At the same time the President acknowledged that he had not received a favorable response from the dual labor organization.

"The same situation has obtained ever since. We of the American Federation of Labor have made repeated overtures for a resumption of peace negotiations with the CIO. Our pleas have been rejected or ignored each time. In my Labor Day address a month ago I declared that the restoration of labor unity would be a vital factor in making the national defense effort more effective. Only two days ago, I made a similar statement in the opening address to this sixty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. But we have still not heard a word or a whisper from the other side.

"Under the circumstances, I am compelled to say to the President of the United States—there is no point in directing further appeals on this subject to the American Federation of Labor. We are willing to talk peace and make peace at any time we are accorded an opportunity to do so. We suggest that you direct your future appeals to the CIO with all the influence at your command until the representatives of that organization agree to confer with us.

"In the concluding sentences of his message to the current American Federation of Labor convention, the President reminded us that the workers in bondage throughout the world look to us to produce the weapons of freedom to release them from slavery. The President concluded with this significant statement:

"'I know you will not fail them.'

"May I say, Mr. President, that we deeply appreciate your confidence and we will do everything in our power to continue to merit your faith. On behalf of the five million members of the American Federation of Labor, I assure you and the people of our country that we will not fail America."

The President's Message

Following is the text of President Roosevelt's special message to the sixty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Please extend my warm personal greetings to the officers and delegates attending the Sixty-first Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor and my best wishes for a successful and constructive meeting in the interests of your members and all the American people. Your delegates represent the largest membership in the history of the Federation. This meeting is an event of international significance. It is a symbol of that freedom which we, in the United States, enjoy and must make every sacrifice to maintain.

As hosts of distinguished representatives of the underground labor movements of countries enslaved by Hitler, you, at this convention, need no reminder of what is at stake for the free workers of America in the present emergency. The threat of Hitlerism is directed not only at labor, even though labor is among the very first that will suffer therefrom. It is aimed at all of us—every man, woman and child—who believes in freedom. It menaces everything that we cherish as Americans and free men.

The American people have, therefore, pledged everything in their power that those freedoms, without which free trade unions and free institutions cannot survive, shall never be taken away from them. To protect those freedoms we shall, and must, devote every bit of human, physical and spiritual energy which we possess. Our program of defense—our production of ships, planes, guns, tanks—must be all-out. It shall be limited by only one factor—the amount necessary to overwhelm the Nazi hordes. I know that every one of you, and the millions whom you represent, will lend every effort and make every necessary step to accomplish this end.

Every aspect of our national defense hinges on greater industrial production. The Government has set up machinery to adjust industrial disputes in the full confidence that it is adequate to solve problems which may arise on defense jobs in all fairness and justice to the parties concerned. The Conciliation Service of the United States Department of Labor and the National Defense Mediation Board provide ample facilities for the adjustment of differences. The time has come when the services of such agencies must be used before any recourse is taken to a strike or lockout and I call now upon labor and management to cooperate at all times to that end.

This is not the time for idle promises. This is not the time to take chances with the national safety through any stoppage of defense work or defense production. Instead, this is the time for all of us to work in harmony for the good of the individual and the common good of all the people of these United States. Every American owes that to himself and to the nation which has given him so much.

Yes, this nation has given to you and given to me the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and these are among the greatest blessings of mankind. It is our job, our everlasting job, to preserve them as we have known them and to make whatever sacrifice is necessary as individuals or as groups in order to do so. To do anything else would be to threaten their destruction and our own at the same time.

In this hour when civilization itself is in the balance, organizational rivalries and jurisdictional conflicts should be discarded. Only by united action can we turn back the Nazi threat. The establishment of peace between labor organizations would be a patriotic step forward of incalculable value in the creation of true national unity.

I am certain that the members of the American Federation of Labor will do their full part in carrying through the program to which we as a nation are committed and that all other responsible groups will do likewise. That is the contribution the American people will demand of all groups. That is the contribution the American people are determined they shall have for the preservation of home, family and nation.

Yours is a great responsibility. Workers in bondage throughout the world look to you as producers of the weapons of freedom to release them from slavery. I know you will not fail them.

DEFENSE PROGRAM URGED BY STASSEN

Minnesota Governor Lauds AFL No-Strike Policy; Says Peace Parleys Must Include Labor

Seattle, Wash.—Governor Harold E. Stassen of Minnesota made a stirring appeal in support of a five-point program for national defense and reconstruction when the emergency ends, in an address to the delegates to the sixty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor here.

His plan included speeding up of defense production, national unity in support of the foreign policy of the United States, preservation of the rights of labor and free enterprise, a gigantic public works construction program after the defense crisis has passed, and adequate labor representation at the peace conferences when the war against the Axis powers ends with Hitler's defeat.

Emphasizing the tremendous task of adequately arming the United States against aggression and at the same time aiding countries "who are courageously opposing the totalitarian onslaught," Gov. Stassen urged the necessity of speeding up production to the limit. He praised the American Federation of Labor for its policy of avoiding strikes in defense industries and substituting the conference room for the strike field, and declared that "management must not take advantage of the reluctance of labor to strike or of the necessity of defense production." He said the policy of government should be "clear and definite against those abuses of employers that precipitate strikes."

Gov. Stassen emphasized the importance of national unity in support of the foreign policy of the United States under the leadership of President Roosevelt. "The recent barbaric execution of the respected labor leaders of Norway, following on the heels of the abolition of real unions in the most of the rest of Europe," he said, "darkly underlines the crucial importance of the success of our policy."

"It is also important," the Governor said, "to safeguard the preservation of the rights of the free workman and of private enterprise and the sovereignty of the individual citizen under a democracy when this crisis has passed. This requires the full influence of labor to keep the unusual powers which the national government needs now on a temporary basis, as it will otherwise be difficult to take them away again in future years."

Turning to the tremendous problems of readjustment "when the emergency has passed and the defense program ends," Gov. Stassen said it was the function of labor to prepare a program commensurate with these problems and to develop public support for it. In this field he suggested "an extensive public works program, not of the WPA type, but rather a contractual construction of undertakings of permanent national value such as super-highways, an advanced network of airdromes and the harnessing of water power, with provision for revenue use of the results in a manner similar to the Pittsburgh Toll Highway, and the inauguration of extensive low-cost housing construction founded on private capital and individual ownership with a direct government subsidy but of the minimum necessary amount."

"The fifth great future issue before American labor overshadows all the others," Gov. Stassen concluded. "That is to play a part, when that day of peace, which we hope and pray is not too far distant, arrives—in the establishment of a system of justice between nations based upon a charter of rights with armed force as a police power and not as a ruthless aggressors club."

HOUSE VOTES BILL TO DEPORT BRIDGES

Washington, D. C.—For the second time, the House of Representatives approved a measure directing the deportation of Harry Bridges, West Coast CIO leader.

Without debate or a roll call the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill introduced by Representative Allen of Louisiana directing that Bridges be immediately deported to Australia, his native home. An identical bill passed the House last year by a vote of 330 to 42, but failed of consideration in the Senate.

The deportation of Bridges was recently recommended by a retired New York State judge, Charles B. Sears, who made a special investigation of the charges against the Australian for the Department of Justice. Judge Sears held that Bridges had been affiliated with the Communist party and should be deported.

AFL IS PRAISED BY MISS PERKINS

Unions Backed Social Security and Wage-Hour Laws, Labor Department Secretary Says

Seattle, Wash.—The efforts of the American Federation of Labor in securing the enactment of many laws benefiting workers were lauded by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins in an address to the 61st annual convention of the Federation here. She also praised the building trades unions for their achievements in transferring workers to defense projects with special reference to the air base at Corpus Christi, Texas.

"Many conferences over the past eight years with President Green and with other ranking officials of the national and state organizations have made it clear to me that the American Federation of Labor stands for high principles in its public relations and in its industrial relations," she said.

"The cooperation of the American Federation of Labor representatives with the Department of Labor made possible the establishment of the Social Security program, the Wage and Hour legislation, and the nationwide development of the public employment services. I do not need to tell you how much such legislation has meant to millions of American men, women and children, most of them not members of your trade union organization, but profiting by your foresight and your intelligence in your support of the measures which have changed the picture of life for them."

"One of the most notable achievements of American labor, perhaps, was the program by which it took its full share of responsibility for the work in building the air base at Corpus Christi, Texas, where skilled and unskilled labor had to be brought from great distances, and as many of you know, they had to be housed and fed on a temporary basis, and the work had to be done at top speed.

"It is a great tribute to the organizing ability of the officers in the building trades unions—and I am sure no one will mind if I say particularly to George Meany, who showed such effectiveness and efficiency and willingness in this connection. It was as well a tribute to the efficiency of the working men in these trades that that job could have been done with the minimum of delay and friction."

That Pegler Person

(Reprinted from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

Crotchety old Westbrook Pegler, who is capable of a liver upset that has almost become a medical phenomenon, has had another of his bad days.

In fact, Mr. Pegler, whose writings appear on the page opposite, must look back upon the doggonedest succession of bad days since Job had his boils.

Sometimes we suspect Mr. Pegler, arising in a good humor, drags out one of his pet phobias and beats himself about the head with it for the sheer pleasure of getting back into a bad humor.

To our guests of the American Federation of Labor convention, it might possibly seem more hospitable if the Post-Intelligencer were to withhold Mr. Pegler's vapors while this convention is in session.

To them we point out that Mr. Pegler has more than once been a thorn in our own flesh and we still publish him.

It's all a part of our policy of giving a man his say, even though it hurts.

We believe that's the only way to publish a newspaper and keep it worthy of the faith its readers put in it.

We believe this is more than ever important at this time when democracy is in peril and one of the cornerstones that supports it is the freedom of the press.

And we are certain that the American Federation of Labor, which is in the forefront of this fight for freedom, is quite capable of stomaching Mr. Pegler in the interests of maintaining one of the most valuable heritages—freedom of expression.

LEGION HEAD ASKS BRIDGES' OUSTER

Stambaugh Also Urges Repeal of Neutrality Laws; Criticizes Labor Secretary Perkins

Seattle, Wash. — American Legion Commander Lynn U. Stambaugh demanded the immediate deportation of Harry Bridges, the resignation of Secretary of Labor Perkins and repeal of the neutrality laws in an address before the American Federation of Labor convention.

The newly elected legion head praised the American Federation of Labor for its all-out efforts to aid the national defense program and took a sharp, if indirect, stand against the CIO when he said:

"When what purports to be a labor movement turns out to be a Communist movement, it is quite likely to run up against opposition from the American Legion. Our opposition to the alien Harry Bridges is a case in point. We think it is unfortunate that any important segment of labor should be led by those who condone his illegal acts and who thereby endow any part of the American labor movement with a leadership that is un-American."

Regarding Secretary of Labor Perkins, Commander Stambaugh said:

"In the American Legion we have been utterly frank in expressing our lack of faith in the ability of Madam Frances Perkins to function efficiently as Secretary of Labor.

"This is said without prejudice to Madam Perkins as a woman and as a social worker. It is concerned only with her failure to meet the needs of the crises that have followed one upon another in the years she has been in the Cabinet."

Referring to the need for repealing the "charred hulk of the neutrality laws of 1935 and 1939," Commander Stambaugh declared:

"Under existing agreements and commitments between this nation and every other nation where there is hope for the rights of free men and the will to fight for the overthrow and destruction of Hitler, there no longer exists the spirit of neutrality.

"Any remaining vestige of even a technical neutrality went out the window when the first American warship was attacked by a Nazi submarine. It is inconceivable to us that American labor, any more than the American Legion, should accept piracy on the high seas as a condition conforming to either the letter or the spirit of neutrality."

ALL BRITISH LABOR SPURNS DEFEATISM

Delegates Tell AFL War Against Nazis Must Be Won; Labor's Liberties Protected

Seattle, Wash.—Labor is "on its toes" in Great Britain and determined to win the war. This was the gist of the messages brought to the American Federation of Labor convention by two fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress.

Delegate George W. Thomson, who made the perilous journey across the Atlantic to address the convention, said:

"Defeatism is unknown in England today. We have built new armies, new naval and air fleets. We have armed and provisioned them and are in better condition and heart today than we were a year ago.

"The barbarism of Hitler shall not pass! You and we and the very spirit of man itself shall see to that."

Describing labor's role in the British defense effort, Mr. Thomson made it clear that the British labor movement has not and will not sacrifice its liberties. The principle of free voluntary negotiations between employers and employes has been retained, although some "cherished practices sometimes had to be yielded with promises of post-war restoration."

"We cannot afford, by emotional appeals to patriotism, to have standards of living reduced," he continued. "In some cases, even in wartime, they must be enhanced, not only for the sake of the workers themselves but in the national interest. As a trade union movement we do not wish to countenance any exploitation by either employers or workers."

Edward Hough, the second British fraternal delegate to the convention, who accompanied Mr. Thomson here, declared:

"The policy of the British Trades Union Congress has been a wholehearted effort to smooth out the difficulties of the working people and employers to further the efforts towards increased production for the Anglo-Russian defenses.

"The help which the people of America are sending to us is very much appreciated in Great Britain. Our people realize your difficulties and understand the differences of opinion which must exist in such a large country."

H. C. Simpson, fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, explained in detail the defense program being carried out in Canada. He said that the sums spent by Canada to aid Great Britain relatively would amount to a 35,000,000,000 dollar lend-lease program here.

SHOE WORKERS MINIMUM PAY

Washington, D. C.—The Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor issued an order, effective Nov. 3, establishing a 40-cent-an-hour minimum wage in the shoe industry.

AFL Demands Probe of Arnold's Activities Against Trade Unions

Convention Seeks Assistant Attorney General's Removal From Office If Charges of Illegal Prosecution of Unions Are True

Seattle, Wash.—The American Federation of Labor called upon Attorney General Biddle to investigate the anti-union activities of his assistant, Thurman Arnold, and to remove him from office if certain charges made against him are true. The A. F. of L. convention also approved a recommendation that these charges be brought to the attention of President Roosevelt by a special committee to be appointed by the executive council.

The charges against Arnold, as outlined in the report of the resolutions committee to the convention, were that he has prosecuted trade unions under the anti-trust laws without legal warrant, that he has written articles for publication and lobbied in support of legislation to axe legitimate labor activities and that he has treated labor defendants in anti-trust cases like criminals, requiring that they be fingerprinted and put up bail, while employers under similar charges have not been forced to undergo such humiliations.

The resolutions committee report, approved by the convention, also asked Attorney General Biddle to inquire whether Arnold had received compensation for writing articles on the subject of his anti-trust campaigns on the basis of material obtained in the service of the Federal Government.

Other highlights of the convention sessions as it reached the half-way mark, included:

1. The complete overhauling of the personnel of the National Labor Relations Board was heartily commended by the convention as an important A. F. of L. victory, but enactment of amendments to the National Labor Relations Act was demanded to prevent abuses in administration and interpretation of the law.

2. The Federation agreed to reduce the number of its vice presidents from fifteen to thirteen.

3. A constitutional amendment was adopted to lower the per capita tax of national and international unions from two cents per month per member to one and one-half cents per month per member. The amendment further provided that international unions need pay only one per cent per month per member on all membership in excess of 300,000. The per capita tax on members of directly affiliated federal and local labor unions was also reduced one-half cent.

In castigating Thurman Arnold, the resolutions committee report said: "The true anti-union aims of the anti-trust division, headed by Mr. Thurman Arnold, have been made abundantly clear during the past year. The Supreme Court of the United States, by its notable decision in the Hutcheson case, has compelled Mr. Arnold to give up his pretext of discharging the alleged duties of his official position. He has been revealed as a false crusader who has exploited his public office as a means of imposing his own malicious, dangerous and unscientific concepts of labor upon our national economy.

"In brief, the Supreme Court has bluntly rebuked the attempted arrogation of power by the anti-trust division. The court confirmed what spokesmen for organized labor persistently contended—namely, that the anti-trust division, in its unprecedented and wholesale prosecutions of labor organizations, was perverting and misapplying the anti-trust laws.

"But this victory, although most substantial and most fortunate, has not completely removed the menace to labor's fundamental rights. Shorn of the cloak of being a fair public prosecutor, whose sole duty it is to enforce the laws as Congress wrote them and the courts interpreted them, Mr. Arnold has, without hesitation and without compunction, readily taken on the more congenial garb of an anti-labor lobbyist and publicist who has—quite wittingly we charge—become the most articulate and effective spokesman now representing the reactionary, anti-labor forces in this country.

"The inconsistency of a government functionary widely propagandizing his personal bias by scurrilous attacks on labor in vicious articles and demagogic speeches is both obvious and deplorable. It is a crude effort to provide his anti-labor objectives with the prestige of his public office. We condemn it without reservation."

Martel Exposes CIO Plot Against AFL Building Trades In Detroit

Seattle, Wash. — Scathing indictment of the CIO plot to undermine the A. F. of L. Building Trades Unions in Detroit in collaboration with an anti-union employer was presented to the American Federation of Labor convention by Frank X. Martel, president of the Detroit Federation of Labor. Since the Building Trades Unions have been unjustly accused in the public press in connection with this case, Mr. Martel's disclosures constituted a complete vindication of their position and policies.

He said: "I notice in a dispatch of the Merry-Go-Round in this morning's local newspaper that Thurman Arnold has announced his intention of proceeding against the agreement arrived at between the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and OPM Director Sidney Hillman, and his attack on that agreement is predicated out of a situation arising in the city of Detroit wherein some departmental government agency is attempting to give a contract on a housing project to a building-material man who has just signed a 'sweetheart agreement' with the CIO.

"The Currier Lumber Company of Detroit, operated by Pat Currier, who was involved in a strike with the Teamsters' Union of that city in the spring of this year, and whose hired thugs murdered one of the teamster members, was the low bidder on a housing contract, even though he had never built any houses or any other kind of buildings around Detroit.

"Columnists, including Pegler, are trying to make the American public believe that Currier is a legitimate building contractor. But he is not. They are trying to make the American public believe that the opposition of organized labor in Detroit to the awarding of this contract is because Currier proposes to build it on a prefabricated basis. As a matter of fact, American Federation of Labor union contractors bid on this job on the same specifications that Currier bid. The cost of construction for this type of building, the labor cost on it, is less than one third of the total cost. Currier's bid is better than a thousand dollars per unit less than the nearest union contractor. That price would be impossible, no matter what method was used to put these houses up.

"Following the announcement of Currier being the successful bidder on this contract, there came another announcement, that Currier had signed a five-year closed shop contract with the CIO Construction Workers' Union at no adjustment in wage scales in the community. This, of course, is not in accordance with the truth. His CIO friends that he just signed a contract with attempted to strike his plant a year ago, and picketed it for three months.

"At the time Currier signed this contract with the United Construction Workers' Union, the CIO union had no membership in his plant. The American Federation of Labor unions in Detroit had a verbal agreement with the contractors and building material supply dealers of Detroit, that Currier is a member of, to recognize the American Federation of Labor unions as the bargaining agency for the employes of those who belong to the association. Currier signed a closed-shop contract with the CIO without any of his people being members, and he placed the head of the Currier company union at the head of the CIO Construction Workers' Union.

"Instead of Mr. Arnold, if he is an honest public official, concerning himself with the opposition of the American Federation of Labor unions at Detroit to prevent Currier from getting this contract, I challenge him to investigate the conspiracy between the CIO and the Currier Lumber Company to violate the National Labor Relations law.

"This is an illegal combination to deprive the Currier employes of their rights under the National Labor Relations law. Make sure, my friends, Currier is not a construction contractor; he never has been a construction contractor. He is a building-material supply man who makes the bulk of his revenue from the loans of money that he is handling in Detroit for the eastern bankers, and he has been giving the legitimate building supply contractors in Detroit the worst kind of unfair competition."

SEAFARERS APPROVE BONUS

New York, N. Y.—John Hawk, secretary-treasurer of the Seafarers International Union, AFL affiliate, announced that the union's membership had ratified the National Defense Mediation Board's recommendation to increase war bonuses by 33 1/3 per cent on vessels bound for dangerous waters, raising the bonus from $60 a month to about $80 a month.

LONGSHOREMEN RATIFY PACT

New York, N. Y.—Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL affiliate, announced that the association's 50,000 members on the Atlantic Coast had ratified the new contract with the New York Shipping Association, providing a wage rise of 10 cents an hour and an increase of 15 cents an hour for overtime, bringing the dock pay to $1.20 and $1.80.

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"In the course of his message to the convention, President Roosevelt made several suggestions designed to bring about even more efficient labor service in the future. We welcome these suggestions, first because we are just as deeply concerned as he is to promote all-out defense effort and, secondly, because his recommendations are fully in line with the well-established policies of the American Federation of Labor."

Answering the President's plea that labor submit disputes to the Defense Mediation Board before going on strike, Mr. Green said:

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"What has been the response from the membership of the American Federation of Labor to this appeal from its leadership? I am gratified to report from official Government records that the response was almost 100 per cent perfect. These official records show that more than 99 per cent of the membership of the American Federation of Labor refrained from striking for any cause at any time during the defense program to date.

"Now it is not my purpose to denounce the fraction of one per cent of our members who have deviated from the no-strike policy of our organization. I can well understand how impatient men and women, smarting under a sense of injustice, may act hastily in an attempt to redress immediate and personal grievances, forgetting for the moment the broader issues involved and the ultimate effect of their ill-considered conduct. And I ask the public to bear in mind that labor organizations are made up of human beings, subject to human emotions and unable no matter how hard they try to attain perfection.

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"Speaking for the American Federation of Labor, I can truthfully say that we agree with the President 100 per cent. The metal trades and building and construction trades unions of the American Federation of Labor have already signed compacts with the Government guaranteeing there will be no stoppages of defense work due to jurisdictional conflicts between two or more unions of the American Federation of Labor.

"But with regard to the larger question of labor peace, the obvious fact is that it takes two sides to make peace. The President himself declared at a press conference in Washington, D. C., more than a year ago that the American Federation of Labor had responded willingly and favorably to each appeal for both sides to sit down together and work out a settlement of differences around the conference table. At the same time the President acknowledged that he had not received a favorable response from the dual labor organization.

"The same situation has obtained ever since. We of the American Federation of Labor have made repeated overtures for a resumption of peace negotiations with the CIO. Our pleas have been rejected or ignored each time. In my Labor Day address a month ago I declared that the restoration of labor unity would be a vital factor in making the national defense effort more effective. Only two days ago, I made a similar statement in the opening address to this sixty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. But we have still not heard a word or a whisper from the other side.

"Under the circumstances, I am compelled to say to the President of the United States—there is no point in directing further appeals on this subject to the American Federation of Labor. We are willing to talk peace and make peace at any time we are accorded an opportunity to do so. We suggest that you direct your future appeals to the CIO with all the influence at your command until the representatives of that organization agree to confer with us.

"In the concluding sentences of his message to the current American Federation of Labor convention, the President reminded us that the workers in bondage throughout the world look to us to produce the weapons of freedom to release them from slavery. The President concluded with this significant statement:

"'I know you will not fail them.'

"May I say, Mr. President, that we deeply appreciate your confidence and we will do everything in our power to continue to merit your faith. On behalf of the five million members of the American Federation of Labor, I assure you and the people of our country that we will not fail America."

The President's Message

Following is the text of President Roosevelt's special message to the sixty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor:

Please extend my warm personal greetings to the officers and delegates attending the Sixty-first Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor and my best wishes for a successful and constructive meeting in the interests of your members and all the American people. Your delegates represent the largest membership in the history of the Federation. This meeting is an event of international significance. It is a symbol of that freedom which we, in the United States, enjoy and must make every sacrifice to maintain.

As hosts of distinguished representatives of the underground labor movements of countries enslaved by Hitler, you, at this convention, need no reminder of what is at stake for the free workers of America in the present emergency. The threat of Hitlerism is directed not only at labor, even though labor is among the very first that will suffer therefrom. It is aimed at all of us—every man, woman and child—who believes in freedom. It menaces everything that we cherish as Americans and free men.

The American people have, therefore, pledged everything in their power that those freedoms, without which free trade unions and free institutions cannot survive, shall never be taken away from them. To protect those freedoms we shall, and must, devote every bit of human, physical and spiritual energy which we possess. Our program of defense—our production of ships, planes, guns, tanks—must be all-out. It shall be limited by only one factor—the amount necessary to overwhelm the Nazi hordes. I know that every one of you, and the millions whom you represent, will lend every effort and make every necessary step to accomplish this end.

Every aspect of our national defense hinges on greater industrial production. The Government has set up machinery to adjust industrial disputes in the full confidence that it is adequate to solve problems which may arise on defense jobs in all fairness and justice to the parties concerned. The Conciliation Service of the United States Department of Labor and the National Defense Mediation Board provide ample facilities for the adjustment of differences. The time has come when the services of such agencies must be used before any recourse is taken to a strike or lockout and I call now upon labor and management to cooperate at all times to that end.

This is not the time for idle promises. This is not the time to take chances with the national safety through any stoppage of defense work or defense production. Instead, this is the time for all of us to work in harmony for the good of the individual and the common good of all the people of these United States. Every American owes that to himself and to the nation which has given him so much.

Yes, this nation has given to you and given to me the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and these are among the greatest blessings of mankind. It is our job, our everlasting job, to preserve them as we have known them and to make whatever sacrifice is necessary as individuals or as groups in order to do so. To do anything else would be to threaten their destruction and our own at the same time.

In this hour when civilization itself is in the balance, organizational rivalries and jurisdictional conflicts should be discarded. Only by united action can we turn back the Nazi threat. The establishment of peace between labor organizations would be a patriotic step forward of incalculable value in the creation of true national unity.

I am certain that the members of the American Federation of Labor will do their full part in carrying through the program to which we as a nation are committed and that all other responsible groups will do likewise. That is the contribution the American people will demand of all groups. That is the contribution the American people are determined they shall have for the preservation of home, family and nation.

Yours is a great responsibility. Workers in bondage throughout the world look to you as producers of the weapons of freedom to release them from slavery. I know you will not fail them.

DEFENSE PROGRAM URGED BY STASSEN

Minnesota Governor Lauds AFL No-Strike Policy; Says Peace Parleys Must Include Labor

Seattle, Wash.—Governor Harold E. Stassen of Minnesota made a stirring appeal in support of a five-point program for national defense and reconstruction when the emergency ends, in an address to the delegates to the sixty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor here.

His plan included speeding up of defense production, national unity in support of the foreign policy of the United States, preservation of the rights of labor and free enterprise, a gigantic public works construction program after the defense crisis has passed, and adequate labor representation at the peace conferences when the war against the Axis powers ends with Hitler's defeat.

Emphasizing the tremendous task of adequately arming the United States against aggression and at the same time aiding countries "who are courageously opposing the totalitarian onslaught," Gov. Stassen urged the necessity of speeding up production to the limit. He praised the American Federation of Labor for its policy of avoiding strikes in defense industries and substituting the conference room for the strike field, and declared that "management must not take advantage of the reluctance of labor to strike or of the necessity of defense production." He said the policy of government should be "clear and definite against those abuses of employers that precipitate strikes."

Gov. Stassen emphasized the importance of national unity in support of the foreign policy of the United States under the leadership of President Roosevelt. "The recent barbaric execution of the respected labor leaders of Norway, following on the heels of the abolition of real unions in the most of the rest of Europe," he said, "darkly underlines the crucial importance of the success of our policy."

"It is also important," the Governor said, "to safeguard the preservation of the rights of the free workman and of private enterprise and the sovereignty of the individual citizen under a democracy when this crisis has passed. This requires the full influence of labor to keep the unusual powers which the national government needs now on a temporary basis, as it will otherwise be difficult to take them away again in future years."

Turning to the tremendous problems of readjustment "when the emergency has passed and the defense program ends," Gov. Stassen said it was the function of labor to prepare a program commensurate with these problems and to develop public support for it. In this field he suggested "an extensive public works program, not of the WPA type, but rather a contractual construction of undertakings of permanent national value such as super-highways, an advanced network of airdromes and the harnessing of water power, with provision for revenue use of the results in a manner similar to the Pittsburgh Toll Highway, and the inauguration of extensive low-cost housing construction founded on private capital and individual ownership with a direct government subsidy but of the minimum necessary amount."

"The fifth great future issue before American labor overshadows all the others," Gov. Stassen concluded. "That is to play a part, when that day of peace, which we hope and pray is not too far distant, arrives—in the establishment of a system of justice between nations based upon a charter of rights with armed force as a police power and not as a ruthless aggressors club."

HOUSE VOTES BILL TO DEPORT BRIDGES

Washington, D. C.—For the second time, the House of Representatives approved a measure directing the deportation of Harry Bridges, West Coast CIO leader.

Without debate or a roll call the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill introduced by Representative Allen of Louisiana directing that Bridges be immediately deported to Australia, his native home. An identical bill passed the House last year by a vote of 330 to 42, but failed of consideration in the Senate.

The deportation of Bridges was recently recommended by a retired New York State judge, Charles B. Sears, who made a special investigation of the charges against the Australian for the Department of Justice. Judge Sears held that Bridges had been affiliated with the Communist party and should be deported.

AFL IS PRAISED BY MISS PERKINS

Unions Backed Social Security and Wage-Hour Laws, Labor Department Secretary Says

Seattle, Wash.—The efforts of the American Federation of Labor in securing the enactment of many laws benefiting workers were lauded by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins in an address to the 61st annual convention of the Federation here. She also praised the building trades unions for their achievements in transferring workers to defense projects with special reference to the air base at Corpus Christi, Texas.

"Many conferences over the past eight years with President Green and with other ranking officials of the national and state organizations have made it clear to me that the American Federation of Labor stands for high principles in its public relations and in its industrial relations," she said.

"The cooperation of the American Federation of Labor representatives with the Department of Labor made possible the establishment of the Social Security program, the Wage and Hour legislation, and the nationwide development of the public employment services. I do not need to tell you how much such legislation has meant to millions of American men, women and children, most of them not members of your trade union organization, but profiting by your foresight and your intelligence in your support of the measures which have changed the picture of life for them."

"One of the most notable achievements of American labor, perhaps, was the program by which it took its full share of responsibility for the work in building the air base at Corpus Christi, Texas, where skilled and unskilled labor had to be brought from great distances, and as many of you know, they had to be housed and fed on a temporary basis, and the work had to be done at top speed.

"It is a great tribute to the organizing ability of the officers in the building trades unions—and I am sure no one will mind if I say particularly to George Meany, who showed such effectiveness and efficiency and willingness in this connection. It was as well a tribute to the efficiency of the working men in these trades that that job could have been done with the minimum of delay and friction."

That Pegler Person

(Reprinted from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

Crotchety old Westbrook Pegler, who is capable of a liver upset that has almost become a medical phenomenon, has had another of his bad days.

In fact, Mr. Pegler, whose writings appear on the page opposite, must look back upon the doggonedest succession of bad days since Job had his boils.

Sometimes we suspect Mr. Pegler, arising in a good humor, drags out one of his pet phobias and beats himself about the head with it for the sheer pleasure of getting back into a bad humor.

To our guests of the American Federation of Labor convention, it might possibly seem more hospitable if the Post-Intelligencer were to withhold Mr. Pegler's vapors while this convention is in session.

To them we point out that Mr. Pegler has more than once been a thorn in our own flesh and we still publish him.

It's all a part of our policy of giving a man his say, even though it hurts.

We believe that's the only way to publish a newspaper and keep it worthy of the faith its readers put in it.

We believe this is more than ever important at this time when democracy is in peril and one of the cornerstones that supports it is the freedom of the press.

And we are certain that the American Federation of Labor, which is in the forefront of this fight for freedom, is quite capable of stomaching Mr. Pegler in the interests of maintaining one of the most valuable heritages—freedom of expression.

LEGION HEAD ASKS BRIDGES' OUSTER

Stambaugh Also Urges Repeal of Neutrality Laws; Criticizes Labor Secretary Perkins

Seattle, Wash.—American Legion Commander Lynn U. Stambaugh demanded the immediate deportation of Harry Bridges, the resignation of Secretary of Labor Perkins and repeal of the neutrality laws in an address before the American Federation of Labor convention.

The newly elected legion head praised the American Federation of Labor for its all-out efforts to aid the national defense program and took a sharp, if indirect, stand against the CIO when he said:

"When what purports to be a labor movement turns out to be a Communist movement, it is quite likely to run up against opposition from the American Legion. Our opposition to the alien Harry Bridges is a case in point. We think it is unfortunate that any important segment of labor should be led by those who condone his illegal acts and who thereby endow any part of the American labor movement with a leadership that is un-American."

Regarding Secretary of Labor Perkins, Commander Stambaugh said:

"In the American Legion we have been utterly frank in expressing our lack of faith in the ability of Madam Frances Perkins to function efficiently as Secretary of Labor.

"This is said without prejudice to Madam Perkins as a woman and as a social worker. It is concerned only with her failure to meet the needs of the crises that have followed one upon another in the years she has been in the Cabinet."

Referring to the need for repealing the "charred hulk of the neutrality laws of 1935 and 1939," Commander Stambaugh declared:

"Under existing agreements and commitments between this nation and every other nation where there is hope for the rights of free men and the will to fight for the overthrow and destruction of Hitler, there no longer exists the spirit of neutrality.

"Any remaining vestige of even a technical neutrality went out the window when the first American warship was attacked by a Nazi submarine. It is inconceivable to us that American labor, any more than the American Legion, should accept piracy on the high seas as a condition conforming to either the letter or the spirit of neutrality."

ALL BRITISH LABOR SPURNS DEFEATISM

Delegates Tell AFL War Against Nazis Must Be Won; Labor's Liberties Protected

Seattle, Wash.—Labor is "on its toes" in Great Britain and determined to win the war. This was the gist of the messages brought to the American Federation of Labor convention by two fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress.

Delegate George W. Thomson, who made the perilous journey across the Atlantic to address the convention, said:

"Defeatism is unknown in England today. We have built new armies, new naval and air fleets. We have armed and provisioned them and are in better condition and heart today than we were a year ago.

"The barbarism of Hitler shall not pass! You and we and the very spirit of man itself shall see to that."

Describing labor's role in the British defense effort, Mr. Thomson made it clear that the British labor movement has not and will not sacrifice its liberties. The principle of free voluntary negotiations between employers and employes has been retained, although some "cherished practices sometimes had to be yielded with promises of post-war restoration."

"We cannot afford, by emotional appeals to patriotism, to have standards of living reduced," he continued. "In some cases, even in wartime, they must be enhanced, not only for the sake of the workers themselves but in the national interest. As a trade union movement we do not wish to countenance any exploitation by either employers or workers."

Edward Hough, the second British fraternal delegate to the convention, who accompanied Mr. Thomson here, declared:

"The policy of the British Trades Union Congress has been a wholehearted effort to smooth out the difficulties of the working people and employers to further the efforts towards increased production for the Anglo-Russian defenses.

"The help which the people of America are sending to us is very much appreciated in Great Britain. Our people realize your difficulties and understand the differences of opinion which must exist in such a large country."

H. C. Simpson, fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, explained in detail the defense program being carried out in Canada. He said that the sums spent by Canada to aid Great Britain relatively would amount to a 35,000,000,000 dollar lend-lease program here.

SHOE WORKERS MINIMUM PAY

Washington, D. C.—The Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor issued an order, effective Nov. 3, establishing a 40-cent-an-hour minimum wage in the shoe industry.

AFL Demands Probe of Arnold's Activities Against Trade Unions

Convention Seeks Assistant Attorney General's Removal From Office If Charges of Illegal Prosecution of Unions Are True

Seattle, Wash.—The American Federation of Labor called upon Attorney General Biddle to investigate the anti-union activities of his assistant, Thurman Arnold, and to remove him from office if certain charges made against him are true. The A. F. of L. convention also approved a recommendation that these charges be brought to the attention of President Roosevelt by a special committee to be appointed by the executive council.

The charges against Arnold, as outlined in the report of the resolutions committee to the convention, were that he has prosecuted trade unions under the anti-trust laws without legal warrant, that he has written articles for publication and lobbied in support of legislation to axe legitimate labor activities and that he has treated labor defendants in anti-trust cases like criminals, requiring that they be fingerprinted and put up bail, while employers under similar charges have not been forced to undergo such humiliations.

The resolutions committee report, approved by the convention, also asked Attorney General Biddle to inquire whether Arnold had received compensation for writing articles on the subject of his anti-trust campaigns on the basis of material obtained in the service of the Federal Government.

Other highlights of the convention sessions as it reached the half-way mark, included:

1. The complete overhauling of the personnel of the National Labor Relations Board was heartily commended by the convention as an important A. F. of L. victory, but enactment of amendments to the National Labor Relations Act was demanded to prevent abuses in administration and interpretation of the law.

2. The Federation agreed to reduce the number of its vice presidents from fifteen to thirteen.

3. A constitutional amendment was adopted to lower the per capita tax of national and international unions from two cents per month per member to one and one-half cents per month per member. The amendment further provided that international unions need pay only one per cent per month per member on all membership in excess of 300,000. The per capita tax on members of directly affiliated federal and local labor unions was also reduced one-half cent.

In castigating Thurman Arnold, the resolutions committee report said: "The true anti-union aims of the anti-trust division, headed by Mr. Thurman Arnold, have been made abundantly clear during the past year. The Supreme Court of the United States, by its notable decision in the Hutcheson case, has compelled Mr. Arnold to give up his pretext of discharging the alleged duties of his official position. He has been revealed as a false crusader who has exploited his public office as a means of imposing his own malicious, dangerous and unscientific concepts of labor upon our national economy.

"In brief, the Supreme Court has bluntly rebuked the attempted arrogation of power by the anti-trust division. The court confirmed what spokesmen for organized labor persistently contended—namely, that the anti-trust division, in its unprecedented and wholesale prosecutions of labor organizations, was perverting and misapplying the anti-trust laws.

"But this victory, although most substantial and most fortunate, has not completely removed the menace to labor's fundamental rights. Shorn of the cloak of being a fair public prosecutor, whose sole duty it is to enforce the laws as Congress wrote them and the courts interpreted them, Mr. Arnold has, without hesitation and without compunction, readily taken on the more congenial garb of an anti-labor lobbyist and publicist who has—quite wittingly we charge—become the most articulate and effective spokesman now representing the reactionary, anti-labor forces in this country.

"The inconsistency of a government functionary widely propagandizing his personal bias by scurrilous attacks on labor in vicious articles and demagogic speeches is both obvious and deplorable. It is a crude effort to provide his anti-labor objectives with the prestige of his public office. We condemn it without reservation."

Martel Exposes CIO Plot Against AFL Building Trades In Detroit

Seattle, Wash.—Scathing indictment of the CIO plot to undermine the A. F. of L. Building Trades Unions in Detroit in collaboration with an anti-union employer was presented to the American Federation of Labor convention by Frank X. Martel, president of the Detroit Federation of Labor. Since the Building Trades Unions have been unjustly accused in the public press in connection with this case, Mr. Martel's disclosures constituted a complete vindication of their position and policies.

He said: "I notice in a dispatch of the Merry-Go-Round in this morning's local newspaper that Thurman Arnold has announced his intention of proceeding against the agreement arrived at between the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and OPM Director Sidney Hillman, and his attack on that agreement is predicated out of a situation arising in the city of Detroit wherein some departmental government agency is attempting to give a contract on a housing project to a building-material man who has just signed a 'sweetheart agreement' with the CIO.

"The Currier Lumber Company of Detroit, operated by Pat Currier, who was involved in a strike with the Teamsters' Union of that city in the spring of this year, and whose hired thugs murdered one of the teamster members, was the low bidder on a housing contract, even though he had never built any houses or any other kind of buildings around Detroit.

"Columnists, including Pegler, are trying to make the American public believe that Currier is a legitimate building contractor. But he is not. They are trying to make the American public believe that the opposition of organized labor in Detroit to the awarding of this contract is because Currier proposes to build it on a prefabricated basis. As a matter of fact, American Federation of Labor union contractors bid on this job on the same specifications that Currier bid. The cost of construction for this type of building, the labor cost on it, is less than one third of the total cost. Currier's bid is better than a thousand dollars per unit less than the nearest union contractor. That price would be impossible, no matter what method was used to put these houses up.

"Following the announcement of Currier being the successful bidder on this contract, there came another announcement, that Currier had signed a five-year closed shop contract with the CIO Construction Workers' Union at no adjustment in wage scales in the community. This, of course, is not in accordance with the truth. His CIO friends that he just signed a contract with attempted to strike his plant a year ago, and picketed it for three months.

"At the time Currier signed this contract with the United Construction Workers' Union, the CIO union had no membership in his plant. The American Federation of Labor unions in Detroit had a verbal agreement with the contractors and building material supply dealers of Detroit, that Currier is a member of, to recognize the American Federation of Labor unions as the bargaining agency for the employes of those who belong to the association. Currier signed a closed-shop contract with the CIO without any of his people being members, and he placed the head of the Currier company union at the head of the CIO Construction Workers' Union.

"Instead of Mr. Arnold, if he is an honest public official, concerning himself with the opposition of the American Federation of Labor unions at Detroit to prevent Currier from getting this contract, I challenge him to investigate the conspiracy between the CIO and the Currier Lumber Company to violate the National Labor Relations law.

"This is an illegal combination to deprive the Currier employes of their rights under the National Labor Relations law. Make sure, my friends, Currier is not a construction contractor; he never has been a construction contractor. He is a building-material supply man who makes the bulk of his revenue from the loans of money that he is handling in Detroit for the eastern bankers, and he has been giving the legitimate building supply contractors in Detroit the worst kind of unfair competition."

SEAFARERS APPROVE BONUS

New York, N. Y.—John Hawk, secretary-treasurer of the Seafarers International Union, AFL affiliate, announced that the union's membership had ratified the National Defense Mediation Board's recommendation to increase war bonuses by 33 1/3 per cent on vessels bound for dangerous waters, raising the bonus from $60 a month to about $80 a month.

LONGSHOREMEN RATIFY PACT

New York, N. Y.—Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL affiliate, announced that the association's 50,000 members on the Atlantic Coast had ratified the new contract with the New York Shipping Association, providing a wage rise of 10 cents an hour and an increase of 15 cents an hour for overtime, bringing the dock pay to $1.20 and $1.30.